

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

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DRAFTED BY EA/ANP:JCDORRANCE/MOLMSTED:MHS

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SCA: MR. RECKNAGLE

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R 241850Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, OTRA, PP, US, AS, PFOR

SUBJECT: PORT MORESBY CONSULATE GENERAL

REF: CANBERRA 3063

1. EMBASSY IS CORRECT IN ASSUMING MARY OLMSTED'S TRAVEL AND OPENING OF PORT MORESBY CONGEN DELAYED PENDING CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON STATE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION. HOWEVER, WE CONCUR EARLY EXCHANGE OF NOTES ON MARY OLMSTED'S ASSIGNMENT (PARA ONE REFTEL) DESIRABLE. EMBASSY NOTE SHOULD CONFIRM US INTENTION OF OPENING CONGEN, ADVISE THAT MARY OLMSTED WILL BE ASSIGNED AS PRINCIPAL OFFICER AND CONSUL GENERAL, EFFECTIVE OPENING OF POST, AND REQUEST EXEQUATOR. YOU MAY ALSO CONFIRM THAT WE PRESENTLY PLAN INITIAL STAFFING OF POST WILL BE 3 US CITIZEN EMPLOYEES (INCLUDING PRINCIPAL OFFICER) WITH A POSSIBLE INCREASE TO 6 WITHIN A FEW MONTHS, AND 7 FS LOCALS TO BE HIRED OVER A PERIOD OF MONTHS. FINALLY, NOTE SHOULD

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ADVISE THAT CONSULAR JURISDICTION OVER PAPUA NEW GUINEA

WILL BE TRANSFERRED FROM BRISBANE TO PORT MORESBY AT A DATE YET TO BE DETERMINED BUT AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE AFTER OPENING OF POST. ON TIMING OPENING OF POST, YOU MAY INFORMALLY AND ORALLY CONFIRM THAT WE STILL ANTICIPATE PRINCIPAL OFFICER, SECRETARY, AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER WILL ARRIVE PORT MORESBY BY LATE JUNE OR EARLY JULY AT LATEST.

2. REGARDING CONSULTATIONS IN CANBERRA AND BRISBANE (PARA TWO REFTEL), MISS OLMSTED PLANS TO STOP FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS' CONSULTATION IN BOTH HONOLULU AND SUVA. IF YOU CONCUR, SHE BELIEVES IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR HER TO PROCEED DIRECTLY TO PORT MORESBY FROM SUVA SO THAT SHE CAN LOOK AT LEASED PROPERTY AND TALK TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IN ORDER TO BE BETTER PREPARED TO DISCUSS ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS IN CANBERRA. SHE WOULD WANT TO SPEND NO MORE THAN FOUR OR FIVE DAYS IN PORT MORESBY, AND WOULD DEFER HER OFFICIAL CALLS UNTIL AFTER VISITING CANBERRA. IF, HOWEVER, YOU STILL BELIEVE SHE SHOULD GO TO CANBERRA FIRST, SHE WILL FOLLOW THAT ROUTING.

3. IN PREFERENCE TO STOPPING IN BRISBANE, EN ROUTE TO MORESBY, SHE SUGGESTS SENDING THE CONSULAR OFFICER (MIKE DONOVAN) TO BRISBANE IN JULY OR AUGUST FOR CONSULTATION AND TO ARRANGE FILE TRANSFER.

4. FRIEDMAN HAS SUGGESTED ACCOMPANYING OLMSTED ON INITIAL CALLS. IF YOU CONCUR AND IF TRAVEL BUDGET PERMITS, SHE WOULD BE GLAD TO HAVE HIM DO SO. RUSH

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